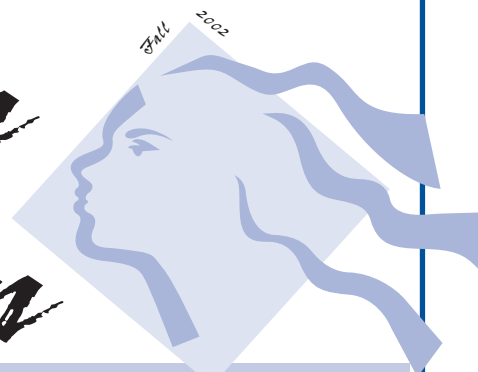


Michigan Women

*A Publication
of the
Michigan
Women's
Commission*



◆ GOVERNOR JOHN ENGLER ◆ DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR NANETTE REYNOLDS ◆
◆ CHAIRWOMAN ANNE NORLANDER ◆ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JEAN KORDENBROCK ◆

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

As you may know, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In recognition of this, the Michigan Women's Commission would like to provide some information about breast and cervical cancer and suggestions on how you may receive a screening.

According to the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), almost 6,800 women were diagnosed with breast cancer, and over 400 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer in 1999. By the

year 2000, almost one quarter of the women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer had passed away.

While these statistics are startling, these deaths can be prevented by early detection and treatment of these diseases. Self breast exams are an excellent method of early detection, but women should also receive a yearly mammogram and pap smear. Women over the age of 40 should have yearly breast exams, mammograms, pelvic exam, pap smears

and patient education.

If you would like more information about how to receive these screenings, please contact your primary care physician. Or, you may qualify for services through your local health department. There are over 700 breast and cervical cancer control program (BCCCP) centers located within 20 local health departments in Michigan. The program has acquired the participation and cooperation of hospitals, physicians, and health care organizations to

provide screening and follow-up services in many communities.

The Michigan Women's Commission encourages you to receive your yearly screenings. Women receiving financial assistance may qualify for partial or full coverage of their exams. To contact your local BCCCP coordinating agency, please call 1-800-922-MAMM. Or, if you would like more information about you can get involved with breast and cervical cancer prevention, please call (800) ACS-2345.

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Spotlight on Commissioners

Commissioner Emma Bell joined the MWC with the goal of improving the quality of life for Michigan women. For over 30 years, Emma has been an active leader in her community, participating in countless organizations and civic leadership positions. Currently, Emma is the Director of Public Affairs for the Wayne County Commission where she has encouraged thousands of citizens to exercise their right to vote at the ballot box. Also, she has dedicated many hours to ensure that the needs of senior citizens in her community



are met. Emma is the mother of one son, and is also a mentor for many young adults, helping them achieve success in politics, business and society.

Commissioner Denise Radtke feels very fortunate to have had the opportunity to stay home and raise a family and then pursue a 22-year Congressional staff career. Born and raised in Detroit, Denise attended the University of Michigan-Dearborn and graduated in 1976 with a degree in political science. Denise has worked as a District Representative for Congressman Carl Pursell and Congressman Joe Knollenberg. She also has served her community on a number of different boards and associations, including Community Hospice



Foundation Board, President of Plymouth Corners Condominium Association, and the Livonia School Board Advisory, to name a few. Denise has three children and six grandchildren. Denise looks forward to serving on the MWC to continue her passion for public service.



Commissioners Lynda Cosgrove, Emma Bell, and Pat Hardy greet at the August 2002 MWC meeting.

Commissioner's Corner...

Women and Technology

Careers in the fields of math, science and technology are missing an important component of success: women. Although women make up almost half of the workforce today, they comprise only about 20 percent of information technology (IT) professionals. The field of computer science, the technological highway of the future, has experienced the greatest decrease in female participation of all technological fields. Women receive less than 28 percent of all computer science bachelor's degrees, down from 37 percent in 1984. Why are women losing interest in technology? The lack of female presence in the technological workforce has been attributed to a number of causes. Statistics show that girls are losing interest in math, science and technology between elementary school and high school. Girls are not only losing interest, but they feel less confident about performance in math and science subjects and do not aspire to go into these fields. Eighty-one percent of girls in elementary school are interested in math, but only 31 percent think they are good at math. This is compared with the 84 percent of boys who are interested in math and the 49 percent of boys who think they are good at math. In high school, the numbers drop to 61 percent of girls who say they enjoy math, and only 15 percent think they are good at math.

The American Association of University Women's (AAUW) report titled "Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America," highlighted crucial links between confidence and self-esteem and career aspirations. The study found that girls are often directed away from courses that involve math, science and technology which lead to high-skilled, high-paying careers. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the number of computer scientists and system analysts will increase by nearly 60 percent (269,000 high paying, highly skilled jobs) by the year 2010.

Exposing girls to science and technology at a young age is vital for the success and advancement of

women in science and technology fields which hold many possibilities for women who are willing to explore and embrace math and science. Currently, only 29 percent of girls think they would enjoy being a scientist, compared to 52 percent of boys who think they would enjoy the career. One of the first things we must do is eliminate the fear of math and science and encourage women to enter these careers.



Mandy Grewal

One of the ways we can accomplish this is by encouraging young girls to take advantage of the math, science and computer classes offered at their middle and high schools. Additionally, parents and teachers need to encourage girls to attend any of the wonderful camps and programs in science, math, engineering and technology, some exclusively for girls at Michigan's universities, colleges and museums. Michigan employers also have the opportunity to support girl's interest in technology by sponsoring a camp, participating in the technical education of young girls, or mentoring a young girl.

These are just some of the ways we can increase the above numbers. You can make a difference by simply talking to one young girl about a career in the technological field that might change her life, her dreams and her future. Technology is expanding into every career making it essential for women to be a part of its growth. By recognizing that women possess the interest, knowledge and skills to understand math, science and technology, not just the women and employers of Michigan, but the state itself will reap long-term benefits.

More information on the issue of Michigan women and girls in math, science and technology is available at the MWC website: www.michigan.gov/mdcr.

Calendar of Events

JUNE

Commissioner Kamar Amanullah attended Macomb County Girl Scouts Awards Banquet in Clinton Township, MI

Commissioner Judi Clark made a presentation on GHB at the Substance Abuse Coalition Luncheon in Lansing, MI

Chairwoman Anne Norlander and Vice Chairwoman Judy Garland attended the Governor's Quality Care Awards Banquet in Lansing, MI

JULY

Chairwoman Anne Norlander, Executive Director Jean Kordenbrock, Commissioner Julie Stevens, Ex Officio Maura Campbell, and Liaison Kelly Chesney attended the Women's Caring Program in Milford, MI

Vice Chairwoman Judy Garland and Executive Director Jean Kordenbrock attended the National Association of Commissions for Women Annual Conference which focused this year on Women and Technology

Commissioner Lynda Cosgrove toured Overlook Resources Miracle House in Traverse City, MI, which offers substance abuse treatment services for women and their families

AUGUST

Executive Director Jean Kordenbrock made a presentation on the MWC to the Alliance of Women Entrepreneurs in Grand Rapids, MI

Commissioner Mandy Grewal made a presentation on the MWC to the Military Entrance Processing Station in Lansing, MI

Commissioner Lynda Cosgrove made a presentation on the MWC to the National Park Service in Cadillac, MI

SEPTEMBER

Commissioner Lynda Cosgrove and Program and Outreach Specialist Alissa DeGrow exhibited at Michigan Works! Conference in Traverse City, MI

Executive Director Jean Kordenbrock attended the CAMW First Impressions Boutique Clothing Drive in Lansing, MI

Commissioner Pat Hardy and Executive Director Jean Kordenbrock attended the Caregiving Summit in Lansing, MI

Executive Director Jean Kordenbrock toured the Women's Resource Center at West Shore Community College in Scottville, MI

Vice Chairwoman Judy Garland made a presentation to a professional women's group in Mt. Pleasant, MI

Are You an Outdoors-Woman?

Many Michigan women enjoy outdoor activities, but have not had an opportunity to learn the skills or take part in activities such as hunting and fishing. That is no longer the case. In 1991, the first "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" (BOW) was founded, and the program has expanded to 44 states nation wide. Many workshops are offered throughout the year, and these programs range from day-long excursions to weekend-long adventures.

The BOW program offers educational activities in many different areas: shooting, hunting, fishing, and eco-sports, such as camping, kayaking, etc. These programs are available for all women, from



MWC begins "Women and Technology" projects

Currently, the Michigan Women's Commission is working to increase the interest of young girls in math, science and technology. The following are some of the projects the MWC has begun:

- Contacting Parent/Teacher Associations around the state to schedule speaking engagements to discuss how schools can engage the interest of young girls in math, science and technology.
- Partnering with professional women's organizations, associations, and employers to encourage and mentor young girls in the pursuit of math, science and technology careers.
- Creating and distributing, with the Michigan Department of Career Development, brochures to schools, parents and young girls about the importance of math, science and technology education, and providing them information about extracurricular camps and programs in Michigan that focus on these subjects.

If you would like to learn more about the MWC "Women and Technology" projects, or to schedule a speaking engagement, please call (517) 373-2884, or visit our website at www.michigan.gov/mdcr.

beginners to seasoned outdoors women. BOW is not a competitive program. It is intended to provide an enjoyable social outlet for women who are interested in outdoor activities. And, everyone is respected by their fellow participants regardless of their level of expertise.

For more information on the BOW program, please call the ABecoming an Outdoors-Woman@Coordinator at 517-241-2225, or send an e-mail to marlal@michigan.gov.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

For more information please visit
www.michigan.gov/mdcr

Women's Commission Publications



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-  Methamphetamine
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-  Stalking: Understand Your Rights
-  Watch Out For Rape Drugs

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